



CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

MEDIA RELEASE

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State Takes Early Action to Reduce Greenhouse Gases

Members Show Progress on Climate Action Efforts

SACRAMENTO – Today members of the California Climate Action Team presented their progress to meet the Governor's original climate action goals to reduce greenhouse gases to 1990 levels.

Those goals are now law, pursuant to the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, also known as Assembly Bill 32 (Nunez/Pavley). To reach the goals, members of the Climate Action Team are working alongside the California Air Resources Board to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their respective jurisdictions.

"I'm proud of what the Climate Action Team has been able to accomplish, and I attribute the recent exponential success to the governor's bold environmental leadership on this issue," said Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection, and chair of the Climate Action Team. "Working together, representing our various stakeholder groups, we can accomplish so much more than working alone."

The California Climate Action Team was initiated by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2005, and charged with developing strategies to reach the governor's aggressive greenhouse gas-reduction targets. On Sept. 27, 2006, the governor signed Assembly Bill 32, putting those targets into law (1990 by 2020, a 25% reduction), and establishing the world's most comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction strategy. The law requires the California Air Resources Board to implement a statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy.

After signing the law, the governor issued Executive Order S-20-06, calling on the Climate Action Team to continue pursuing ongoing programs (such as the Solar Initiative, Green Building Initiative, Renewable Portfolio Standard, etc.), and to continue developing additional strategies to reduce greenhouse gases from their respective sectors. In addition, AB 32 calls for the continued role of the CAT.

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Below is a summary of the various ongoing climate action programs. For more information about the state's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, go to <http://www.climatechange.ca.gov>.

Summary of today's presentations:

Air Resources Board (Jerry Martin, 916/322-2990)

The California Air Resources Board (ARB), the nation's pioneer in reducing air pollution, approved regulations in 2004 to reduce greenhouse gases from new motor vehicles. The new standards are expected to reduce greenhouse gases from cars and trucks by up to 18 percent by 2020, and 27 percent by 2030. In addition, the ARB is responsible for implementing the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32). As required by AB 32, the ARB is currently holding workshops to establish a list of "early action items" by July 1, 2007. For more information, go to www.arb.ca.gov/cc/cc.htm

Business, Transportation & Housing Agency (Mark DeSio, 916/654-5782)

The Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, as represented by the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans), have been actively engaged in the CAT and other greenhouse gas mitigation activities. In January 2007, CalTrans issued a report on the potential for greenhouse gas emission reductions through it transportation planning and other infrastructure activities. CalTrans will also be an active participant in both the Cement and Smart Growth subgroups of the CAT. Caltrans has established a Climate Action Program to mainstream and coordinate implementation of CAT strategies, and has assigned a Climate Action Program Manager. For more information, go to www.dot.ca.gov.

California Energy Commission (Claudia Chandler, 916/654-4989)

The California Energy Commission is the state's principal energy planning agency responsible for developing and implementing building and appliance energy efficiency standards. It licenses power plants 50 megawatts or larger, implements renewable energy programs, and supports the state's energy efficiency research and development programs. For more information, go to www.energy.ca.gov.

California Integrated Waste Management Board (Jon Myers, 916/445-1296)

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) met its goal to reduce the state's waste by 50 percent last year, through recycling and reuse. By keeping more waste out of landfills, officials expect to reduce green-house gases by 3 million metric tons per year by 2010. For more information, go to www.ciwmb.ca.gov.

California Public Utilities Commission (Terrie Prosper, 415/703-2160)

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulates the state's Investor Owned Utilities, overseeing programs and policies designed to benefit consumers, the environment, and the economy. The CPUC requires utilities to consider the potential cost of their carbon emissions when buying electricity. In addition, the CPUC adopted the nation's most aggressive energy efficiency investments, totaling \$2 billion over three years. By 2008, the efficiency programs will reduce carbon

dioxide emissions by more than 3 million tons per year, equivalent to taking 650,000 cars off the road. For more information, go to www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/061211_egyleadership.htm.

Department of Food and Agriculture (Nancy Lungren, 916/654-0321)

The Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is developing strategies to reduce methane, a potent greenhouse gas, from livestock, and sequester carbon stored in crops through more responsible tilling of the land. CDFA is also working with farmers to create a viable market for waste and other agriculture byproducts by turning it into energy and other types of alternative fuels. For more information, go to www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/aep/aes/index.htm.

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Mike Jarvis, 916/653-5587)

Climate change affects temperature, precipitation and localized weather patterns. These changes will affect the frequency and intensity of wildfires; forest growth, composition, and distribution; and forest health. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is exploring ways to reduce the causes and impacts of climate change. CDF's strategy is to reduce CO2 emissions from forest conversions and wildfires, to increase carbon sequestration through reforestation and improved forest production and forest health, to reduce energy demand in urban areas by establishing urban forests, and by using forestry biomass as an alternative to fossil fuels. For more information, go to www.fire.ca.gov.

Department of General Services (Bill Branch, 916/376-5036)

As the primary real estate manager and contracting and procurement agency for state government, the Department of General Services (DGS) plays a vital role in the governor's effort to reduce global warming and greenhouse gases. DGS is charged with implementing the governor's Green Building Initiative, which mandates a 20 percent reduction in electricity consumption in state buildings by 2015. Decreasing the amount of energy used in state buildings will reduce the amount of greenhouse gases associated with electricity produced from power plants using fossil fuels. For more information, go to www.green.ca.gov.

Department of Water Resources (Sue Simms, 916/651-7242)

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) recognizes one of the most crucial impacts of climate change is on water supply. Climate change is affecting precipitation, temperature, sea level and the hydrologic cycle. DWR is exploring new ways to increase water use efficiency, conservation, and create new ground and surface water storage to manage flood risks and maintain a reliable water supply into the future. For more information, go to <http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/climatechange.cfm>

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